

REMARKS:Claims 27-32, 34, 35, 37

Claims 27-32, 34, 35 and 37 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Maeda (US6020559).

In the prior response, claim 27 was amended to require that the first and second electrical contacts be positioned towards the first end of the sheath, and also be positioned on opposite sides of the sheath. As discussed in detail in the specification, the presence of multiple contacts on the same conductor and positioned towards one end of the cable results in much improved reliability, both during testing and in the final product in which the cable is implemented.

In contrast, Maeda fails to show multiple contacts on the same conductor, where the contacts are positioned towards the same end, yet positioned on opposite sides of the sheath. Rather, Maeda only shows the contacts 54 on the same side of the cable.

In the present office action, the Examiner has rejected claim 27, indicating that Maeda discloses this feature. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point to a specific place in Maeda where multiple electrical contacts are: 1) on the same conductor, 2) towards the same end of the cable, and 3) yet are positioned on opposite sides of the cable.

Applicant concedes that Maeda indicates that the access holes 50 can be positioned on opposite sides of the cable, per Maeda col. 3, lines 43-45. However, this does not imply that multiple electrical contacts on the same conductor be positioned on opposite sides of the cable. Rather, this seems to imply that the holes 50 can be positioned on the bottom of the cable rather than the top. In other words, Maeda's holes are either through the top film or the bottom film, but not both as required by claim 27. A specific instance of this is shown by comparing FIGS. 11 and 13. In FIG. 11, the protruding solder contacts 54 and the conductor 20 at the other end 26 of the cable are all on top. In FIG. 13, the protruding solder contacts 54 are on top while the conductor 20 at the opposite end 74 of the cable is at the bottom.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

IBM1P040/SJO9-2003-0032US1

- 9 -

Similarly, claim 29 further requires that the electrical contacts be positioned directly opposite each other. Nowhere does Maeda disclose this configuration. In fact, Maeda teaches away from aligned contacts. Note Maeda col. 3, lines 31-34, which states that adjacent holes are offset or shifted so that no two adjacent holes are transversely overlapped or aligned. And even where two holes are on the same side of the conductor, Maeda states the following at col. 4, lines 5-17:

Referring now to FIGS. 10 and 11, an embodiment is shown in which at and 30, round holes 54 are formed in the film 52 and are arranged in a spatial pattern with no two adjacent or successive holes being aligned transversely. In some cases, two holes appear for selected conductors, but the two holes are spaced apart longitudinally a distance equal to the diameter of a hole plus the requisite clearance to avoid transverse alignment or overlap. In the hole array depicted, four columns C₁-C₄ of holes are provided to obtain the requisite spacing both transversely and longitudinally. The end 26 is finished as in the previous embodiment except that the exposed conductors are facing up like the solder filled holes at end 30. (*emphasis added*)

Accordingly, no interpretation of Maeda would anticipate claim 29. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

In the prior response, claim 28 was amended to require that the first and second electrical contacts, both positioned towards the same end of the sheath, be exposed portions of the conductor. Support for this amendment is found in FIGS. 4B, 5B and related discussion. Claim 30, which now depends from claim 28, further requires that the exposed portions of the conductor are substantially coplanar with the outer surface of the sheath, as shown in FIGS. 4B, 5B. Using exposed conductor as the contacts makes the cable less expensive to fabricate, as addition of contact pads is not needed. Further, errors that could occur during addition of pads is eliminated.

In contrast, none of Maeda's conductors have contact portions meeting all of the requirements of base claims 27 and 28, and that are also coplanar with the outer surface of the sheath. Rather, Maeda's conductor 20 is coplanar with the interior of the sheath. In fact, solder 54 must be added in order to create a conductive path towards the outside of the sheath. Further, it cannot be said that Maeda suggests extension of the conductor

through the holes 50, as Maeda's solder actually protrudes from the upper surface of the sheath. Note Maeda FIGS. 2, 5-8, 11, 13. This protrusion is not substantially planar with the outer surface of the sheath, as shown in Applicant's FIGS. 4B, 5B. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 28 and 30 is respectfully requested.

To add the limitation entered by argument in the prior response, claim 31 has been amended to require that the first and second electrical contacts for each conductor are aligned along a common plane oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the sheath. An example of this is shown in FIG. 1 of the present application, where the plane is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the sheath. Maeda teaches away from this configuration. Note Maeda col. 3, lines 31-34, which states that adjacent holes are offset or shifted so that no two adjacent holes are transversely overlapped or aligned. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 31 is respectfully requested.

Claims 34 and 35 depend from claim 27, and therefore incorporate the limitations of claim 27. Because claim 27 is believed to be allowable, claims 34 and 35 are also believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 34 and 35 is respectfully requested.

Claim 37 contains limitations similar to that of claim 27, and is therefore also believed to be allowable over Maeda for the same reasons.

Claim 32 depends from claim 37 and is therefore also believed to be allowable.

Claims 33 and 36

Claims 33 and 36 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by Maeda.

Claim 33 depends from claim 27, and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 27. thus, claim 33 is also believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 33 is respectfully requested.

Claim 36 depends from claim 37, and therefore incorporates the limitations of claim 37. Thus, claim 36 is also believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 36 is respectfully requested.

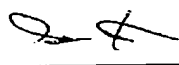
Final Note

If none of the claims are found allowable, Applicant requests that the Examiner call the undersigned representative to discuss.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 971-2573. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 09-0466 (Order No. SJO9-2003-0032US1).

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


Dominic M. Kotab
Reg. No. 42,762

Date: _____

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Zilka-Kotab, PC
P.O. Box 721120
San Jose, California 95172-1120
Telephone: (408) 971-2573
Facsimile: (408) 971-4660

IBM1P040/SJO9-2003-0032US1

- 12 -